

ALTERNATIVE E

IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife

Little temporary or permanent disturbance or displacement of wildlife would be caused by new construction or demolition. There would be very limited introduction of visitor uses into new areas to contribute to disturbance. This alternative is very similar to alternative A except that controlled visitor use would result in decreased disturbance and displacement throughout the park, similar to the other alternatives. There would be no establishment of controlled use water zones. Waterfowl would continue to be disturbed at their nesting sites but to a lesser degree than in alternative A because of visitation limits.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Reduced visitation levels would reduce general disturbance to threatened and endangered species, including wolves, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons.

Designated Wilderness

Existing park activities will delay for the foreseeable future the conversion of five potential wilderness areas to wilderness. In this alternative conversion of two additional areas would be delayed in order to preserve cultural resources through adaptive use.

Geologic Processes

The movement of sand and sediment along the shoreline in Siskiwit Bay would continue to be interrupted by the artificial dock and breakwater structures.

Water Quality

Water quality impacts would be the same as in the proposed action.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archeological Resources

The relocation of one dock and several campsites and construction of one new dock and one new campground could impact known or presently unknown archeological resources. The reduction in park visitation would mean less impacts on archeological resources. The lack of nonmotorized and quiet/no-wake zones would allow for continued impacts on submerged and shoreline archeological sites due to wave action.

Historical Resources

Adaptive use of structures at five locations would help preserve them and associated features, but there could be some loss of historic fabric through adaptive use. There could also be some minor impacts to cultural landscapes caused by adaptive use.

IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Scenic Quality

The amount of developed shoreline would increase slightly because of three additional campgrounds, constituting a slight negative impact to scenic quality. The motel units at Rock Harbor would continue to impact the natural appearance of the entrance to the harbor.

Wilderness Experience and Noise

Crowding impacts would be reduced due to the reduction in visitation. There would be no non-motorized sensitive or quiet/no-wake zones, so noise would not be reduced in specific areas, but

motorboats would be heard somewhat less frequently islandwide due to lower visitation levels.

Relocating the McCargoe Cove dock would reduce noise and motorboat traffic at the head of the cove. Providing separate campsites for hikers and paddlers at three locations would reduce impacts on such users from motorboats.

Range of Uses

The current range of uses would continue. Separation of uses in some areas and the lower level of visitation islandwide would lower the potential for impacts on visitor experiences, but because use levels would not be managed through zoning, occasional crowding could occur in certain areas. Visitors would have substantial freedom to move about the island.

Unavailability of funding for concession subsidies would probably result in higher costs to the consumer and might price some individuals out of the market. If the concession operation fails, people unable to visit the island without those services would be displaced.

Visitor Use Levels

Visitors would have to plan ahead to visit the island, spontaneous trips might be curtailed, and some people might have to wait as long as a year between visits. If overnight accommodations cannot be sustained, some visitors could stop coming to the island.

Safety

There would be no change.

IMPACTS ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Modifications to some facilities would provide short-term economic benefits to a few individuals and businesses. Phasing of the work

would spread the benefits over the life of the various projects.

Impacts would be insignificant in the gateway community economies over the long-term. Visitation would be reduced, which would reduce the park contribution to the local economies. However, there are many other tourist attractions in the affected areas, and this disturbance of the tourism industry would be absorbed in time with relatively minor long-term negative impacts.

If changes to the concessions at Rock Harbor resulted in fewer visitors traveling to the island from Copper Harbor and Grand Portage, those communities could be negatively affected. However, there are many other tourist attractions in the affected areas, and this disturbance of the tourism industry would be absorbed in due time with relatively small long-term negative impacts.

IMPACTS ON PARK OPERATIONS

Some increased maintenance workload would result from adaptive use and preservation of historic structures.

Management of a reservation system could result in a significant operational workload. Some workload increase would also result from increased interpretation services.

There would be some reduction in fee revenue and reduced income from passenger transportation on the *Ranger III*.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Emphasis and focus would be placed on cultural resource research and monitoring and on preservation of certain cultural resources. Knowledge gained and facilities protected would complement historic preservation efforts across the region.